

Appl. No. 10/650,451
Amdt. dated January 29, 2007
Reply to Office Action of January 31, 2006

PATENT

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1 replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-29 are pending. Claims 4-25 remain withdrawn. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended. New claims 26-29 have been added. Claims 1-3 and 26 and 29 belong to the embodiments associated with figures 3, 4, and 6 (i.e., Species 2) that were elected in the amendment filed on May 27, 2004.

Figure 1 has been amended to include -- Prior Art --. The drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) for not including a reference number mentioned in the description. Paragraph 34 of the specification has been amended to remove the reference number.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Simonnet. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Claim 1 recites, "a peripheral junction region of second conductivity formed at least partly within the isolation diffusion region and formed proximate the first surface of the isolation diffusion region, the peripheral junction region being configured to float electrically; and a passivation layer provided over the upper surface of the substrate, the first surface of the isolation diffusion region, and the peripheral junction region; wherein the peripheral junction region is different than the first and second conductive regions, and wherein the first and second electrode terminals define a vertical electrical current path therebetween." Simonnet does not disclose at least the above recited features. Claim 1 is allowable at least this reason. Claims 2-3 depend from claim 1 and are allowable at least for this reason.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 206-467-9600.

Respectfully submitted,



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